

CITY COMMISSION

WORK SESSION MINUTES

June 8, 2021

6:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Commissioners Chilton, Estrop, O'Neill, Rue and President Copeland. City Manager Heck, Assistant to the City Manager Cobbs, Deputy Law Director Irick, Law Director Allen, Finance Director Beckdahl.

GUESTS: Chuck Bauer and Bonnie Martens of the Clark County Waste Management District.

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS:

Topics discussed at the work session held on Tuesday, June 8, 2021, were:

1. Mr. Irick and Ms. Cobbs described the proposed new Codified Ordinance Chapter 377 pertaining to Electric Scooters. The new chapter would establish regulations for a vendor to provide rental service of shared electric scooters including the equipment requirements, parking regulations, operation restrictions, penalties, and a use agreement for rental vendors.

Detailed specifications on the scooter hardware was reviewed along with rental options, benefits for users and the environment, and electric charging options. Other cities utilize similar programs which were reviewed by staff prior to drafting a new Codified Ordinance chapter. A Use Agreement with the rental company would be required including operation areas and insurance requirements. Data usage tools would also be required to share data with the city. Scooters would not be permitted on sidewalks, so they would share streets and bike paths similar to bicycles.

Mr. Rue asked how many scooters would be permitted for rent at one time, and Ms. Cobbs stated 50 scooters would be allowed at first. Successful usage may allow additional units.

Mrs. Chilton asked about helmet requirements. Mr. Irick stated that renters would be required to be at least 18 years old and could choose whether to provide their own helmet or not.

Dr. Estrop asked about operation of scooter during nighttime hours. Mr. Irick stated the scooter must have reflectors and headlamps.

Mr. O'Neill asked about accidents, proof insurance and liability for damage. Mr. Irick explained individual users will not be required to have insurance, but the user's liability would be similar to a bicycle. The rental company would be responsible for damages related to malfunction of the scooter. The city would not be liable for accidents. Law Director Allen noted the city can always be a party to a case involving streets, but the agreement specifically addresses operation of the scooters.

Mr. O'Neill asked for clarification of a scooter's lighting. Mr. Nathan Smith, a franchisee with a scooter rental company, Bird Rides Inc., explained scooters have a brake light, side lights and a headlight. Mr. Smith noted there is a three-week learning curve for both users and vehicle traffic to be comfortable after cities begin using scooters. His company has approximately 1,000 scooters in Columbus, Ohio, with only one accident.

Mrs. Chilton asked and Ms. Cobbs confirmed that local property owners would have opportunities to become re-charging locations.

Mr. O'Neill asked if the user agreement contains a clause to end the agreement if needed. Mr. Irick stated the city could use a traditional contract dispute approach if the company is not fulfilling their agreement. Mr. O'Neill asked if the agreement could be dissolved at any time if the activity does not work well, and Mr. Irick stated the ordinance could be changed or eliminated which allows the activity.

2. Mr. Chuck Bauer and Ms. Bonnie Martens of the Clark County Solid Waste District presented the District's 2020 Annual Report describing the district's mission, current staff, and partnership with the Clark County Sheriff's office for illegal dumping investigation and PRIDE Program clean-up efforts.

Ms. Martens spoke on the Special Recycling program, modified education programs which were limited to videos due to the COVID-19 pandemic in the local schools, and community programs where clean-up supplies were available for pickup. The sunflower field project won a national award in 2020. Ms. Martens also explained the Styrofoam recycling process which can turn solid packing Styrofoam into material that can be sold and reused. Food containers and soft packing material cannot be used in this process.

Mr. Bauer spoke on the six recycling drop-off locations scattered across Clark County were emptied 1,937 times in 2020 which netted 620 tons of mixed materials and 242 tons of cardboard. Clark County exceeded the state's goal of 25 percent with a total of 38.9 percent residential and commercial recycled content. Income from user fees totaled \$43,381 in 2020. Sales of recycled product in 2020 earned \$15,704 which was slightly higher than 2019. Mr. Bauer noted these numbers are very good considering the recycling bins were closed for six weeks due to the pandemic.

Mrs. Chilton asked if there were plans to add a recycling station closer to the south end of Springfield. Mr. Bauer noted the closest station would be the West Main Street facility, but consideration could be given to another area closer to the southern area of Springfield and Clark County.

Dr. Estrop asked if the sunflower field would be planted this year, and Ms. Martens stated that it would.


Mr. O'Neill asked how the organization is funded. Mr. Bauer explained most of the funding comes from generation fees. Landfills and trash transfer stations pay \$8.50 per ton of garbage collected at their facilities.

Commissioners thanked the Clark County Solid Waste District for their efforts.

3. The meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Adj. 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Jill R. Pierce
Clerk of the City Commission